

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated April 26, 2007 and in furtherance of the interview conducted on July 24, 2007. Claims 1, 4, 8, 25, 27, 37, 42, 45 and 49 to 52 have been amended. Claims 53 to 93 have been added. No new matter was added by these amendments or new Claims.

Applicants submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 for the Request for Continued Examination, the Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time, the new Claims and any other fees which are due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 12, 25 to 29, 42, 43, 45 to 49 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 4, 8, 25, 27, 42, 45, 49 and 52 in accordance with the July 24, 2007 interview in order to clarify the existing claim elements. Applicants submit that such rejections have been overcome.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 24, 27 to 41 and 44 to 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO/98/35309 to Muir ("Muir") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,824,465 to Luciano, Jr. ("Luciano").

Muir discloses a gaming system which includes a gaming server in communication with a plurality of game consoles. Predetermined outcomes are implemented using a smartcard as a secure storage and processing means with predetermined bets and outcomes stored as a list of values. In one embodiment, the smartcard uses a random number seed (sent from the gaming server) to generate as many random numbers as required for the next game outcome. Muir also discloses a Keno game wherein the player first selects X unique numbers in the range 1 to Z which are sent as a message for the server to the smartcard. The game console then requests the smartcard to generate an array of Y unique numbers in the range 1 to Z and reads the generated numbers. The game console compares the X player selected numbers with the Y game console selected numbers and pays the player according to the number that match.

Luciano discloses an interactive keno game wherein the player is charged a predefined number of credits for each game selected symbol that is picked. In operation of the keno game, if there is a match between at least one game selected symbol and at least one player selected symbol, the game session is paused and a prize may be awarded to the player. At this point, the player is provided an opportunity to terminate the game session (i.e., minimizing the player's losses) or wager additional credits for another game selected symbol to be picked.

The Office Action stated that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Muir in view of Luciano to provide a keno game that changes or marks the player selected keno symbols and the game selected keno symbols. Further, the Office Action stated that Muir discloses the bi-directional mapping of player-selected symbols with predefined symbols. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a gaming terminal including a primary wagering game operable upon a wager by a player, a plurality of player selectable symbols in the primary wagering game, a display device and a processor in communication with the display device. The processor is operable to enable the player to initiate a play of the primary wagering game and for the play of the primary wagering game to: enable the player to select one or more of the player selectable symbols, associate at least one of the player selected symbols with one of a plurality of predefined symbols, associate at least one of the predefined symbols with a different one of the player selected symbols, receive a game outcome seed from a central controller, determine a game outcome based on the received game outcome seed, and generate one or more game symbols based on the received game outcome seed. For each of the player selected symbols in the generated set of game symbols, the processor is operable to determine the predefined symbol associated with the player selected symbol, and present the predefined symbol to the player. For each of the predefined symbols in the generated set of game symbols, the processor is operable to determine the player selected symbol associated with the predefined symbol, and present the player selected symbol to the player.

As discussed during the telephone interview, unlike the gaming terminal of amended independent Claim 1, neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the gaming terminal resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose a processor operable to enable a player to select one or more player selectable symbols, associate at least one of the player selected symbols with one of a plurality of predefined symbols, and associate at least one of the predefined symbols with a different one of the player selected symbols. As further discussed during the telephone interview, unlike the gaming terminal of amended independent Claim 1, neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the gaming terminal resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose for each of the player selected symbols in a generated set of game symbols, a processor operable to determine the predefined symbol associated with the player selected symbol, and present the predefined symbol to the player and for each of the predefined symbols in the generated set of game symbols, a processor operable to determine the player selected symbol associated with the predefined symbol, and present the player selected symbol to the player. (Emphasis added).

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 3 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claim 1 and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Similar to amended independent Claim 1, amended independent Claim 49 is directed to a method of operating a gaming terminal including, amongst other steps, associating at least one of the player selected symbols with one of a plurality of predefined symbols, associating at least one of the predefined symbols with a different one of the player selected symbols, for each of the player selected symbols in the generated set of symbols, determining the predefined symbol associated with the player selected symbol and presenting the predefined symbol to the player and for each of the predefined symbols in the generated set of symbols, determining the player selected symbol associated with the predefined symbol and presenting the player selected

symbol to the player. As described above, neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the method of operating a gaming terminal resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose associating at least one of the player selected symbols with one of a plurality of predefined symbols, associating at least one of the predefined symbols with a different one of the player selected symbols, for each of the player selected symbols in the generated set of symbols, determining the predefined symbol associated with the player selected symbol and presenting the predefined symbol to the player and for each of the predefined symbols in the generated set of symbols, determining the player selected symbol associated with the predefined symbol and presenting the player selected symbol to the player. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 49 is patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Similar to amended independent Claim 1, amended independent Claims 4 and 8 are each generally directed to a central determination gaming system including, amongst other elements, at least one gaming terminal which includes a processor operable to associate at least one of the player selected symbols with one of a plurality of predefined symbols, associate at least one of the predefined symbols with a different one of the player selected symbols, for each of player selected symbols in the generated set of game symbols, determine the predefined symbol associated with the player selected symbol and present the predefined symbol to the player and for each of the predefined symbols in the generated set of game symbols, determine the player selected symbol associated with the predefined symbol and present the player selected symbol to the player. As described above, neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the central determination gaming system resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose a processor operable to associate at least one of the player selected symbols with one of a plurality of predefined symbols, associate at least one of the predefined symbols with a different one of the player selected symbols, for each of player selected symbols in the generated set of game symbols, determine the predefined symbol associated with the player selected symbol and present the predefined symbol to the player and for each of the predefined symbols in the

generated set of game symbols, determine the player selected symbol associated with the predefined symbol and present the player selected symbol to the player. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 4 and 8 are patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Claims 4 to 7 and 9 to 12 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 4 and 8 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claims 4 and 8 and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Amended independent Claims 25, 42 and 52 are each generally directed to a gaming terminal/method of operating a gaming terminal including, amongst other elements, associating each of the player selected symbols with a different one of the predefined symbols, associating each of the predefined symbols with a different one of the player selected symbols, and modifying the generated set of symbols by: replacing each of the generated symbols which corresponds to one of said player selected symbols with its respective associated predefined symbol and replacing each of the generated set of symbols which corresponds to one of said predefined symbols with its respective associated player selected symbol. Neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the gaming terminal resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose or suggest modifying the generated set of symbols by: replacing each of the generated symbols which corresponds to one of said player selected symbols with its respective associated predefined symbol and replacing each of the generated set of symbols which corresponds to one of said predefined symbols with its respective associated player selected symbol. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 25, 42 and 52 are patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Claims 26, 43 and 44 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 25 and 42 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claims 25 and 42 and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Similar to amended independent Claims 25, 42 and 52, amended independent Claims 27 and 45 are each generally directed to a central determination gaming system including, amongst other elements, at least one gaming terminal which includes a

processor operable to associate each of the player selected symbols with a different one of the predefined symbols, associate each of the predefined symbols with a different one of the player selected symbols and modify the generated set of symbols by replacing each of the generated symbols which corresponds to one of the player selected symbols with its respective associated predefined symbol, and replacing each of the generated symbols which corresponds to one of the predefined symbols with its respective associated player selected symbol. As described above, neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the central determination gaming system resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose modifying the generated set of symbols by replacing each of the generated symbols which corresponds to one of the player selected symbols with its respective associated predefined symbol, and replacing each of the generated symbols which corresponds to one of the predefined symbols with its respective associated player selected symbol. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 27 and 45 are patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Claims 28, 29, and 46 to 48 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 27 and 45 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claims 27 and 45 and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Independent Claim 13 is directed to a gaming terminal including, amongst other elements, a plurality of predefined symbols associated with a primary wagering game and a processor operable to bidirectionally map each player selected symbol with one of said predefined symbols. The Office Action stated the Muir anticipates the bi-directional mapping of player-selected symbols with the predefined symbols. The Office Action states that this is shown in the comparison and scoring of the keno game that determines if a player selected the correct numbers according to the game outcome. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants submit that the determination of whether a player selected the correct numbers according to the game outcome in a keno game is patentably different than bi-directional mapping of player-selected symbols with the predefined symbols. As described on pages 30 to 31 of the specification, for illustrative purposes, bidirectional mapping includes mapping each one of the player's selected

numbers onto a different one of the predefined numbers and reciprocally mapping the predefined number onto the player's selected number. Muir's disclosure of a smartcard generating random numbers based on a seed sent from a gaming server is patentably different than a gaming terminal bidirectionally mapping each player selected symbol with one of the predefined symbols and modifying, based on said bidirectional map, each generated game symbol as claimed. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the gaming terminal resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose bidirectionally mapping each player selected symbol with one of said predefined symbols. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 13 is patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Claims 14 and 15 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 13 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claim 13, and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Similar to amended independent Claim 13, independent Claim 30, 50 and 51 are each generally directed to a gaming terminal/method of operating a gaming terminal including, amongst other elements, bidirectionally mapping each player selected symbol with one of said predefined symbols. As described above, neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the gaming terminal resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose bidirectionally mapping each player selected symbol with one of said predefined symbols. Accordingly, for this reason and the reasons given with respect to amended independent Claim 13, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 30, 50 and 51 are patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Claims 31 and 32 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 30 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claim 30 and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Similar to amended independent Claim 13, independent Claims 16, 20, 33 and 37 are each generally directed to a central determination gaming system including, amongst other elements, at least one gaming terminal which includes a processor operable to bidirectionally map each player selected symbol with one of said predefined

symbols. As described above, neither Muir or Luciano individually, nor the central determination gaming system resulting from the combination of Muir and Luciano disclose bidirectionally mapping each player selected symbol with one of said predefined symbols. Accordingly, for this reason and the reasons given with respect to amended independent Claim 13, Applicants respectfully submits that Claims 16, 20, 33 and 37 are patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Claims 17 to 19, 21 to 24, 34 to 36 and 38 to 41 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 16, 20, 33 and 37 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claims 16, 20, 33 and 37 and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 53 to 93 are patentably distinguished over Muir and Luciano and in condition for allowance for at least the reasons described above and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss this Response.

Respectfully submitted,
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